

**Second Regular Session
Seventy-fourth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO**

PREAMENDED

*This Unofficial Version Includes Committee
Amendments Not Yet Adopted on Second Reading*

LLS NO. 24-0224.01 Michael Dohr x4347

HOUSE BILL 24-1320

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Lukens and Velasco,

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Marchman and Mullica,

House Committees

Education
Appropriations

Senate Committees

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 **CONCERNING CREATING A TASK FORCE TO STUDY SCHOOL STAFF**
102 **SAFETY ISSUES, AND, IN CONNECTION THEREWITH, MAKING AN**
103 **APPROPRIATION.**

Bill Summary

(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted. If this bill passes third reading in the house of introduction, a bill summary that applies to the reengrossed version of this bill will be available at <http://leg.colorado.gov>.)

The bill creates the educator safety task force (task force) within the office of school safety (office) in the department of public safety (department).

The task force consists of the director of the office, teachers, education support professionals, a school support professional, school

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.
Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material to be added to existing law.
Dashes through the words or numbers indicate deletions from existing law.

administrators, a representative of an organization representing students and families from disproportionately impacted communities, a representative of a statewide organization that represents students with disabilities, an individual who works for a nonprofit that focuses on school safety, and a restorative justice professional.

The task force shall meet at least 4 times in 2024 and at least 3 times in 2025 and may hold meetings with remote participation.

On or before June 30, 2025, the bill requires the task force to review, investigate, and make recommendations to the education committees of the house of representatives and the senate, the governor, the state board, the commissioner of education, and the department concerning:

- Any issue relating to the safety and well-being of public school staff, including laws or regulations that affect the safety and well-being of public school staff;
- The effects of the declining number of special education professionals on student behaviors, as well as the impact of widespread staff shortages and the effects of class size and caseloads on disruptive learning environments;
- Incidents of aggressive student behaviors toward educators to inform solutions;
- The work and recommendations of existing education task forces;
- The impact of insufficient funding and the lack of wraparound services on disruptive learning environments; and
- The role resource inequality may play in staff safety issues.

The task force shall make recommendations for administrative and statutory changes that are necessary to facilitate school staff safety solutions.

1 *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:*

2 **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 24-33.5-2704 as
3 follows:

4 **24-33.5-2704. Educator safety task force - created - report -**
5 **definitions - repeal.** (1) THERE IS CREATED IN THE OFFICE OF SCHOOL
6 SAFETY THE EDUCATOR SAFETY TASK FORCE.

7 (2) (a) (I) THE TASK FORCE CONSISTS OF THE FOLLOWING VOTING
8 MEMBERS:

1 (A) THE DIRECTOR, OR THE DIRECTOR'S DESIGNEE, WHO IS THE
2 CHAIRPERSON OF THE TASK FORCE;

3 (B) THREE PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS WHO ARE LICENSED
4 PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 60.5 OF TITLE 22 AND EMPLOYED BY A SCHOOL
5 DISTRICT IN THIS STATE FROM A RURAL, URBAN, AND SUBURBAN DISTRICT,
6 APPOINTED BY THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE ON THE ADVICE OF A
7 STATEWIDE ASSOCIATION THAT REPRESENTS TEACHERS.

8 (C) TWO EDUCATION SUPPORT PROFESSIONALS, ONE OF WHOM
9 FOCUSES ON ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNING, APPOINTED BY THE
10 PRESIDENT OF SENATE ON THE ADVICE OF A STATEWIDE ASSOCIATION THAT
11 REPRESENTS EDUCATION SUPPORT PROFESSIONALS;

12 (D) ONE SCHOOL SUPPORT PROFESSIONAL WHO IS LICENSED
13 PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 60.5 OF TITLE 22, WHO FOCUSES ON ADDRESSING
14 MENTAL HEALTH AT THE SCHOOL LEVEL AND HAS AN UNDERSTANDING OF
15 NEUROLOGICAL AND DEVELOPMENT DISORDERS, SUCH AS AUTISM,
16 APPOINTED BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE ON THE ADVICE OF A
17 STATEWIDE ASSOCIATION THAT REPRESENTS EDUCATION SUPPORT
18 PROFESSIONALS;

19 (E) TWO SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS, WHO ARE EMPLOYED EITHER
20 AT THE SCHOOL OR DISTRICT LEVEL BY A PUBLIC NON-CHARTER SCHOOL
21 DISTRICT, APPOINTED JOINTLY BY THE HOUSE AND SENATE MINORITY
22 LEADERS ON THE ADVICE OF A STATEWIDE ASSOCIATION THAT REPRESENTS
23 SCHOOL EXECUTIVES;

24 (F) ONE TEACHER WHO IS EMPLOYED AT A CHARTER SCHOOL,
25 APPOINTED BY THE HOUSE MINORITY LEADER ON THE ADVICE OF A
26 STATEWIDE ASSOCIATION THAT ADVOCATES FOR CHARTER SCHOOLS;

27 (G) ONE SCHOOL LEADER OR ADMINISTRATOR WHO IS EMPLOYED

1 AT A DISTRICT CHARTER SCHOOL OR A SCHOOL AUTHORIZED BY THE
2 CHARTER SCHOOL INSTITUTE, APPOINTED BY THE SENATE MINORITY
3 LEADER ON THE ADVICE OF THE CHARTER SCHOOL INSTITUTE;

4 (H) A REPRESENTATIVE OF AN ORGANIZATION THAT REPRESENTS
5 STUDENTS AND FAMILIES FROM DISPROPORTIONATELY IMPACTED SCHOOLS
6 THAT RECEIVES MONEY UNDER TITLE I OF THE FEDERAL "ELEMENTARY
7 AND SECONDARY EDUCATION ACT OF 1965", AS AMENDED, AND THE
8 SCHOOLS ARE IN A SCHOOL DISTRICT IN WHICH THE MAJORITY OF THE
9 STUDENTS ENROLLED IN THE DISTRICT IDENTIFY AS MINORITY, APPOINTED
10 BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE;

11 (I) A REPRESENTATIVE OF A STATEWIDE ORGANIZATION THAT
12 REPRESENTS STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES, APPOINTED BY THE SPEAKER
13 OF THE HOUSE;

14 (J) A STUDENT REPRESENTING A COMMUNITY
15 DISPROPORTIONATELY IMPACTED BY SCHOOL DISCIPLINE, APPOINTED BY
16 THE GOVERNOR;

17 (K) AN INDIVIDUAL WHO WORKS FOR A NONPROFIT ENTITY THAT
18 FOCUSES ON SCHOOL SAFETY AND TRAINING, APPOINTED BY THE
19 GOVERNOR; AND

20 (L) A CERTIFIED RESTORATIVE JUSTICE PROFESSIONAL WHO HAS
21 EXPERIENCE WITH COMMUNITY-BASED JUVENILE RESTORATIVE JUSTICE,
22 APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR ON THE ADVICE OF THE COLORADO
23 RESTORATIVE JUSTICE COUNCIL.

24 (II) THE TASK FORCE CONSISTS OF THE FOLLOWING NONVOTING
25 MEMBERS:

26 (A) THE COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION OR THE COMMISSIONER'S
27 DESIGNEE; AND

1 (B) A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH
2 ADMINISTRATION CREATED IN SECTION 27-50-203, APPOINTED BY THE
3 COMMISSIONER OF THE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ADMINISTRATION.

4 (b) THE APPOINTING AUTHORITIES SHALL APPOINT THE TASK FORCE
5 MEMBERS BY JULY 1, 2024.

6 (c) ANY VACANCY OCCURRING IN THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE TASK
7 FORCE MUST BE FILLED IN THE SAME MANNER AS THE ORIGINAL
8 APPOINTMENT.

9 (d) A MAJORITY OF THE MEMBERS OF THE TASK FORCE
10 CONSTITUTES A QUORUM FOR THE TRANSACTION OF BUSINESS, AND A
11 MAJORITY OF A QUORUM PRESENT AT ANY MEETING IS SUFFICIENT FOR ANY
12 OFFICIAL ACTION TAKEN BY THE TASK FORCE.

13 (e) THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE TASK FORCE SHALL CONVENE THE
14 FIRST MEETING OF THE TASK FORCE NO LATER THAN SEPTEMBER 1, 2024.
15 THE TASK FORCE SHALL MEET AT LEAST FOUR TIMES IN 2024 AND AT LEAST
16 THREE TIMES IN 2025. THE TASK FORCE SHALL ESTABLISH PROCEDURES TO
17 ALLOW MEMBERS OF THE TASK FORCE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE MEETINGS
18 REMOTELY.

19 (f) THE MEMBERS OF THE TASK FORCE SERVE WITHOUT
20 COMPENSATION, BUT MAY BE REIMBURSED FOR EXPENSES DIRECTLY
21 RELATING TO THEIR SERVICE ON THE TASK FORCE.

22 (g) UPON THE REQUEST OF THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE TASK FORCE,
23 THE OFFICE OF SCHOOL SAFETY SHALL PROVIDE STAFF ASSISTANCE,
24 MEETING SPACE, OR AUDIO-VISUAL COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY
25 RESOURCES TO THE TASK FORCE AS NECESSARY FOR THE PERFORMANCE OF
26 ITS DUTIES.

27 (3) (a) THE TASK FORCE SHALL STUDY:

1 (I) ANY ISSUE RELATING TO THE SAFETY AND WELL-BEING OF
2 PUBLIC SCHOOL STAFF, INCLUDING LAWS OR REGULATIONS THAT AFFECT
3 THE SAFETY AND WELL-BEING OF PUBLIC SCHOOL STAFF;

4 (II) THE EFFECTS OF THE DECLINING NUMBER OF ■■■ EDUCATION
5 PROFESSIONALS ON STUDENT BEHAVIORS, AS WELL AS THE EFFECTS OF
6 WIDESPREAD STAFF SHORTAGES, CLASS SIZE, AND CASELOADS ON
7 DISRUPTIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS;

8 (III) INCIDENTS OF AGGRESSIVE STUDENT BEHAVIORS TOWARD
9 EDUCATORS TO INFORM SOLUTIONS. THE STUDY OF INCIDENTS OF
10 AGGRESSIVE STUDENT BEHAVIOR MUST INCLUDE AN EXAMINATION OF THE
11 STUDENT'S HISTORY, THE SCHOOL'S ATTEMPTS AT ADDRESSING THE
12 BEHAVIOR AND MENTAL HEALTH NEEDS, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO,
13 BEHAVIORAL ASSESSMENTS OR BEHAVIORAL PLANS, ACCESS TO MENTAL
14 HEALTH SUPPORTS WITHIN THE SCHOOL, AND REFERRALS TO SUPPORTS
15 OUTSIDE OF THE SCHOOL. THE STUDY OF INCIDENTS OF AGGRESSIVE
16 STUDENT BEHAVIOR MUST ALSO INCLUDE EXAMINING THE NUMBER OF
17 SUSPENSIONS THAT HAVE OCCURRED AND THE NUMBER OF ABBREVIATED
18 SCHOOL DAYS BECAUSE OF BEHAVIOR CONCERNS. THE STUDY OF THESE
19 INCIDENTS MUST PROTECT THE PRIVACY OF STUDENTS AND MUST INCLUDE
20 WORKER'S COMPENSATION DATA, REPORTED INCIDENTS IN THE TEACHING
21 AND LEARNING CONDITIONS IN COLORADO SURVEY, AND OTHER RELEVANT
22 DATA THAT MAY INFORM SOLUTIONS. THE SOLUTIONS MUST NOT INCLUDE
23 POLICIES THAT FOCUS ON ADDITIONAL STUDENT DISCIPLINE OR CRIMINAL
24 REFERRAL OF STUDENTS OR ACTIVATE ANY CURRENT POLICIES THAT CAUSE
25 STUDENTS OF COLOR AND STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES TO BE AT
26 DISPROPORTIONATE RISK FOR CRIMINAL REFERRALS.

27 (IV) THE WORK AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE FOLLOWING TASK

1 FORCES: THE SCHOOL FINANCE TASK FORCE, THE SCHOOL SAFETY
2 WORKING GROUP, THE DISPROPORTIONATE DISCIPLINE TASK FORCE, AND
3 THE FACILITY SCHOOLS WORKING GROUP;

4 (V) THE IMPACT OF INSUFFICIENT FUNDING, LACK OF
5 COORDINATION OF SERVICES BETWEEN SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY, AND THE
6 LACK OF WRAPAROUND SERVICES ON LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS; AND

7 (VI) THE ROLE THAT RESOURCE INEQUALITY MAY HAVE ON STAFF
8 SAFETY ISSUES.

9 (b) THE TASK FORCE SHALL MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR
10 ADMINISTRATIVE AND STATUTORY CHANGES THAT ARE NECESSARY TO
11 FACILITATE SCHOOL STAFF SAFETY SOLUTIONS.

12 (4) ON OR BEFORE JUNE 30, 2025, THE TASK FORCE SHALL SUBMIT
13 A FINAL REPORT, INCLUDING ITS FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS ON
14 THE ISSUES IDENTIFIED IN SUBSECTION (3) OF THIS SECTION, TO THE
15 EDUCATION COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND THE
16 SENATE, OR THEIR SUCCESSOR COMMITTEES; THE GOVERNOR; THE STATE
17 BOARD; THE COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION; AND THE DEPARTMENT OF
18 EDUCATION.

19 (5) FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION:

20 (a) "EDUCATION SUPPORT PROFESSIONAL" MEANS A PERSON THAT
21 IS EMPLOYED BY A SCHOOL DISTRICT IN THIS STATE WHO IS NOT REQUIRED
22 AS A CONDITION OF EMPLOYMENT TO HOLD A LICENSE ISSUED PURSUANT
23 TO THIS TITLE 22. THE TERM INCLUDES ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF,
24 PARAPROFESSIONALS, CUSTODIAL STAFF, FOOD SERVICE WORKERS, AND
25 BUS DRIVERS.

26 (b) "TASK FORCE" MEANS THE EDUCATOR SAFETY TASK FORCE
27 CREATED IN SUBSECTION (1) OF THIS SECTION.

1 (6) THIS SECTION IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE DECEMBER 31, 2025.

2 **SECTION 2. Appropriation.** For the 2024-25 state fiscal year,
3 \$146,250 is appropriated to the department of public safety for use by the
4 executive director's office. This appropriation is from the general fund.
5 To implement this act, the office may use this appropriation for
6 administrative services related to the office of school safety.

7 **SECTION 3. Safety clause.** The general assembly finds,
8 determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate
9 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety or for appropriations for
10 the support and maintenance of the departments of the state and state
11 institutions.